

DECLARATION

TO ALL THE

WORLD

OF

Our Faith,

And what we believe who are called

QUAKERS.

AND

This is written, that all people upon Earth may know by whom and how we are saved, and hopes for eternal life; And what we believe concerning God, Christ and the Spirit, and of the things that are eternal, appertaining to all Man-kind to know and believe.

Also what MINISTERS and MAGISTRATES we own, and what and whom we deny.

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*Concerning God, Christ and the Spirit, (that we believe.)*

**F**irst. That there is only one true God who is a Spirit, and his presence filleth heaven and earth, and he is eternal and everlasting, the Creator and preserver of all things that Heaven and Earth and all things therein by him were framed and brought forth, and all things remain unto this day by his power, and whatsoever he willesh in Heaven and Earth, he brings to pass by his word and power. And we believe that this God only he, and ought to be feared, loved, obeyed and worshipped by all creatures, and no other thing besides him in Heaven and Earth; And we believe that his worship and obedience, and fear, and love is to be given in spirit, even in what his own spirit moveth & leadeth his people unto. And we believe his true worship required and accepted of him is not by the Tradition of men in outward observances, or set daies or places, but he is worshipped only in spirit and truth, without respect of time, places or things, and that none can worship him in righteousness, but his Children who are born of his Spirit, and are led and guided thereby. And we believe that this God hath given his Son Christ Jesus into the world, a free gift unto the whole world, and that every man that cometh into the world is lighted by him, that every man may believe and be saved; And we believe that he is given into the world, and no Nation, Country or people excepted, but to all mankind is he given of God, and hath lightned them; & every man through this world, that belleveth in, and receiveth Christ, who is the wisdom and power of the Father, shall be saved with eternal salvation; And every one that belleveth not in him shall be damned, and shall possess everlasting misery. And we believe that Salvation, Justification and Sanctification is only in him, wrought by him & no other, for there is no other name given under heaven but him alone, by which salvation is, and we believe all that receives him & believeth in him, are reconciled to God, and are made alive to God, to live to him in all things, and doth receive the forgiveness of sins, and are set free from all unrighteousness, and from the body of sin and death, and hath the witness of the Spirit in them, and the Spirit of the Father they have received, and it witnesseth unto them of the Father and of the Son, and of things that belong to their peace; and it is the earnest of the Inheritance, and the Seal of the Promise of eternal life, and by it are the deep things of God revealed to mankind, and by it the Father and the Son dwell in the Saints, and by it they have fellowship one with another, and the Father, Son and Spirit are one; And thus we faithfully believe.

Again concerning Christ, we believe that he is one with the Father, and was with him before the world was, and that the Father worketh it as by his Son, for he is the arm of Gods salvation, and the very power and wisdom of the Creator, and was in, and is to come, without beginning or end. And we believe that all the Prophets gave testimony of him, and that he was made manifest in Judas and Jerusalem, and did the work of the Father, and was persecuted of the Jews, and was crucified by his enemies, and that he was buried, and rose again according to the Scriptures. And we be-

Here he is now ascended on high, and seated in the right hand of the Father for evermore, and thus he is glorified with the same glory that he had before the World was; and thus even the same that came down from Heaven, it ascended up to Heaven; and the same that descended, is he that lives for ever.

And we believe, Every one that was dead is alive, and lives for evermore, and that he cometh, shall come again to judge the whole world with righteousness, and all people with equity, and shall give to every man according to his deeds in the day of judgment, when all shall arise to condemnation, or justification, so that bad done good shall receive life, and be that hath done evil, everlasting condemnation.

And we believe he is to be waited for in spirit, to be known after the spirit, as he was before the world was, and that is the knowledge unto eternal life, which all that believe in him doth receive, and he subdueth death, and destroyes him that hath the power of it, and restoreth from death to life, and quickeneth by his spirit all that the Father hath given him, and we believe such he justifieth and sanctifieth, and such are taught of him, but he condemns all that believe not, and continues in unbelief, and are not taught of him, And this we faithfully believe.

And we believe that unto all people upon the face of the whole earth, is a time and day of visitation given, that they may returne and be saved by Jesus Christ, who is given of the Father to call the worst of men to repentance, and the most ungodly of sinners are convinced by him of their ungodly deeds, that they might believe, and be converted and saved. And we believe herein is the love of God manifested to all mankind, and that *born is sent out by him before they were born into the world;* But unto all men is a visitation given, and they that do perish, it is because they do not believe in Christ, and destruction is of a mans self, but salvation is of God, through believing in his Son, who takes away sin, and reneweth into his own Image, that they may become heirs with him; And we believe that there is a Crown of Eternal Glory; and an inheritance of eternal life to be enjoyed for evermore by all that believe and are chosen of God; And that there is an everlasting misery, and destruction to be possessed by all that believe not, but continues in the state of *reprobation*, and are not changed from the ways of sin and death, but walk after the ways of their own hearts lusts, fulfilling the will of the flesh in the evil of this world, and follows not Christ the Light of the World that they may be saved, and we believe upon all such the wrath of God abideth, and that they have no part in the inheritance of God. And we believe that it is only he that is born again of the spirit, and that walks after the spirit who is changed from death to life, and who is redeemed out of the world, and all its wiles, such onely most inherit the Kingdom of God, and they only have right thereto and none besides, even they that are washed and cleansed from all unrighteousnes by the blood of Jesus, by which their sins are remitted, For his blood cleanseth them from all unrighteousnes, and sin, all such that walk and abide in the Light which Christ Jesus hath lighted the world withal.

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And we believe that the Saints upon earth may receive forgiveness of sin, and may be perfectly freed from the body of sin, in death, and in Christ may be perfect, and without sin, and may have victory over all temptations by faith in Christ Jesus. And we believe every Saint that is called of God, ought to press after perfection, and to overcome the Devil, and all his temptations upon earth; and we believe they that faithfully wait for it, shall obtain it, and shall be preserved without sin in the Image of the Father, and such walks not after the flesh, but after the spirit, and are in Covenant with God, and their sins are blotted out and remembered no more, for they cease to commit sin, being born of the Seed of God; And we believe the Gospel of Christ is the Power of God unto salvation, and that it ought to be preached freely unto all people, and Christ to be held forth to all Man, kind by the Ministry sent of him. And we believe this Ministry is received by the gift of the Holy Ghost, and all they that receive it are lawfully called to the Ministry, & they may preach the Gospel of Christ freely, as they have received it freely; and this Ministry is not of man but of God, and is made powerful to the converting of sinners, and to the bringing of people to God, and to the knowledge of his ways. And we do not believe that any man is a Minister of Christ, without the gift of the Holy Ghost, or that the Gospel can be received by natural learning or education. And we believe such as preach for hire, and hath hire for preaching, are not the lawful called Ministers of the Gospel of Christ, such as are proud, and high-minded, & covetous men, who doth not profit the people at all, such as have run, and never were fear of Christ, who calleth by his spirit into the work of the Ministry; and as every one hath received the gift of that his spirit, so he may administer to others.

Concerning Rulers and Governors, we believe that there ought to be Rulers and Governors in every Nation, City, Country or Town, and they ought to be such men as feareth God, and hateth every evil way, who will judge for God, and not for man, and will judge righteously, equally, and justly, and will give true and sound judgment unto all men, without bribery, or respect of persons, not regarding the rich above the poor, but being a praise unto all that do well, and a terror unto all evil doers whatsoever, having knowledge in the pure Law of God, and themselves continually exercised therein. And we believe that every Law of man ought to be grounded upon the Law of God, pure reason and equity being the foundation thereof, that Gods witness in every man may answer to it; and the Law ought to be known unto all people before transgression be charged or punished in any man. And we believe that every transgression ought to be punished according to its nature, and that the punishment exceed not the greatness of the transgression, neither ought any transgressor to escape unpunished, neither ought any upon false suspicion or jealousies to be caused to suffer without the Testimony of true men, or the confession of the party. And we believe that the executors of the Law ought to be just men, and not given to pride, drunkenness, or any other evil whatsoever. And we believe that all Governors and Rulers ought to be accountable to the people, and to the next succeeding Rulers, for all their actions which may be enquired into upon occasion, and that the chiefest of the Rulers

Rulers be subject under the law, & punishable by it if they be transgressors, as well as the people. And thus true justice and justice will be brought forth in the church and all that do well will have peace and live in rest & peace, and all evil-doers whatsoever may stand in awe and be afraid of God, and just men and the execution of good Laws.

Concerning Religion: It's believe that it is only the spirit of the Lord that makes men truly Religious & that no man ought to be compelled to, or from any exercise of practice in Religion by any outward Law or power, but every man ought to be left free; where the Lord shall persuade his own mind in doing or leaving undone this or the other practise in Religion, and every man of what profession in Religion for ever ought to be protected in peace, grounded himself be a man of peace; not seeking the wrong of any man's person or estate.

we believe that to reprove false Opinions, & unsound Doctrines  
in principles seeking to convince them that oppose themselves by ex-  
communication or sharp reproof, by word or writing ought not to be counted  
a breach of the peace, or to strive about the things of the Kingdom of  
God by men of contrary minds or judgments, this ought not to be pe-  
nible by the Magistrates and their Laws, for we believe that the  
outward law & powers of the earth is only to preserve mens persons &  
estates, & not to preferre men in opinions: neither ought the Law of  
the Nation to be laid upon mens Consciences to bind them to or from  
such a judgment or practise in Religion. And we believe that Christ  
ought only to be Lord and Exerciser of mens consciences, and  
his Spirit only must lead into all truth.

And we believe that obedience and subjection in the Lord belongs to Superiours, & that subjects ought to obey them in the Lord: but have rule over them, & that children ought to obey their parents, & wives their husbands, and servants their masters in all things which is according to God, which stand in the exercise of a pure conscience towards God; but where Rulers, Parents or Masters, or any other commandeth or requireth subjection in any thing which is contrary to God, or not according to him, in such causes all people are free, and ought to obey God rather than man, and we believe that herein God will justifie them, being guided and led by his spirit in all that which is good, and out of all that which is evil.

Again, we believe concerning *Election & Reprobation*; that there is a state of *Election*, and a state of *Reprobation*, a state chosen of God, and a state rejected of God, and that all man-kind are in one of these states; all that are elected are elected in Christ; and all that are out of him, are in the



State Reprobate, bringing forth fruit of death and darkness, both children of wrath and disobedience to the pleression & separation from God, in the transgression, unreconciled to God, the enmity, ruling in the heart, being in the fall, and not returned to God against the ignorant of his power, and of his wisdom, having the understanding blinded, so that they cannot see nor perceive the things that are eternal; and in this condition his best works are sin, and whatsoever he doth, he cannot be accepted with God, for he is dead to God, and alive to all evil, bringing forth all his works out of that ground which is cursed. This is the condition of all mankind upon the face of the earth in the first Adam; and this is the state of reprobation, and all that abide herein are rejected of God; and shall never inherit eternal life, but goes into perdition; yet have all such a day of visitation, that they may return out of the state of reprobation, but having knowledge and despising the love of God, they continue in the state reprobate, for the wrath of God abides upon them; but they that are chosen of God are delivered from wrath, for they believe in the light, and become children of the light, and are renewed in mind and heart, and receiveth the love of the Father, and cometh planted into Christ the second Adam, and are chosen in being forth fruit unto the Father, and all their fruit springeth from that ground which is blessed; for they are led by the spirit of the Father, and such are in the state of Election who are made heirs with Christ of the everlasting inheritance that never fades away. And this we faithfully believe, that mercy is not shewed to the Reprobate, nor judgment to them that are chosen of God.

And this to go abroad into the world, that all people may understand what we believe & what we have received of God; & they that believe this, & walk therein by the spirit of the Father shall be saved; but they that believe not, but are disobedient to the truth shall be condemned, because they do not believe. Much more might be written, but in short this is given forth by one that hath believed & received the knowledge of these things from God, a friend unto all people.

E. B.

To all that say we (whom the World do in scorn call Quakers) do deny Ministers and Magistrates; These things I write unto you so give you in short an understanding what Ministers and Magistrates we own, and what, and whom we deny.

First, Such Ministers as are made by God, who are sanctified by his word and power, who have freely received perfect gifts from God, & so by the Spirit and Power of God are sent forth into the world to ruse the people from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to the power of God; who freely minister unto others without covering any mans gold or silver or apparel, nor seeking theirs, but them; warning every man, and teach-

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imparting them to all without, that they may profit every man that is in Christ Jesus. Such a minister from the Spirit and from the Word of God, shall be found in them, who are never unprovided, but all circumstances, and all places shall speak and declare the truth as they are moved and instructed, and in the spirit of truth shall give answers as come: Such Ministers we want, and desire in great measure for their works sake. Gal. 4. 12. Job. 11. 9. Eph. 4. 11, 12, 13. Acts 6. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. Mat. 23. 13. Acts 13. 2 Cor. 12. 13. Gal. 3. 17, 18, 19. 2 Cor. 12. 13. Job. 19. 2, 3, 4, 5. Job 4. 10, 11. & 7. 38, 39. 2 Tim. 4. 2, 3. Acts 4.

But such as are brought up at Schools and Colledges, and so made Ministers by the will of man, who have not freely received perfect gifts from God for perfecting of the Saints, but denies perfection, and so denies the Minister's work, neither do Minister freely, but seek for gain from their quarters, and will not preach without a price, who are not sanctified by the word of God, but plead for a continuance in sin, while people walk upon the flesh. Such a minister from the Letter, and not from the Spirit, who can teach except they have a time to study, and so by their industry make themselves, and are not provided of the Lord (such a Ministry is of works, and not the free gift from God) such cannot profit people, but leads them captive in an empty and dead form, always learning, but never able to come to the true knowledge of God, such called Ministers we do deny, and turn from them, and testify against them, as the holy men of God formerly did, read, Isa. 56. 10, 11. Jer. 9. 30, 31. Africa 3. 11. 1 Cor. 1. 19, 20, 26, 27, 28, 29. & ch. 2. 10, 11. Jer. 23. 22, 30, 31, 32. Isa. 56. 10, 11. Phil. 3. 18, 19. Jude 11. Job. 8. 24, 1 Job 4. 8. Jer. 23. 17, 18, 19. 2 Tim. 3. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Eccl. 34. chap. Hosea 6. 9. Mat. 23. chap. 1 Tim. 5, 6, 10, 11, 2 Tim. 3. chap. 2 Pet. 2. Jude 11.

3. Such Magistrates who Rule for God, who be men of truth, fearing God and having covetousness, who execute true Justice and Judgment in the Earth without partiality, nor respecting the persons of the rich, nor despising the persons of the poor, but in truth and equity giving to every one his due and portion according to the Law of equity, who neither seek nor receive honour from men, but seek the honour that comes from God only, who are a terror to the evil doers, but a praise to them that do well, such Magistrates we own, and in the Lord honor, Exod. 18. 21. Deut. 16. 18, 19, 20. Job. 3. 41, 44. Rom. 13. 4.

But such Magistrates who be proud and lofty, who Rule not for God, but for themselves, who love the praise of men, and judge for gifts and rewards, and love money which is the Root of all evil, who respect the rich in their gay clothing above the poor in vile raiment, who seek and receive honour from men (and if they be not honoured with that which they seek for, turns Judgment backward, that Equity cannot enter) such as be wrathful and malicious cannot Rule for God, such are encouragers of vice and wickedness, and turns their sword backward against the upright and innocent, who reproves sin in the gate, such Magistrates we do deny and testify against: for when the wicked bears rule, the righteous mourn, and the evil doers rejoyce over them, and mock and reproach them, Isa. 2.

